



MAIN POINT:

Just Choices.

God wants us to help people who are in need.

LESSON FLOW:

Opening Discussion	5 min
Bible Time	5 min
Kids Care Vids	1 min
Story	15 min
Activity	10 min
Discussion Questions	5 min
Prayer	1 min
Just One Day Idea	5 min

OPENING DISCUSSION: **Those in Need**

Helping people when they are in need is important. Whether helping your parents with chores or volunteering your time for community service. It's great to be on the lookout for ways to be helpful for others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Tell us about a time someone helped you, or you helped someone. What kind of help did you/they provide?

How did it make you feel?

How did it make the other person feel?



Kids Care Vids: Download the educational videos to better engage your Sunday school students as you teach the Kids Care: Just Choices lessons.

There is a video for each lesson. Watch for the Kids Care Vids symbol in the lesson to indicate when to play them. *Please note, these are completely optional!*



Play Kids Care Vid Episode 3
after the Bible Time

1 John 3:16-18 New Living Translation (NLT)

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?

Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

BIBLE TIME: **When Helping Hurts**

When we learn about people who are in need, we want to help them!

Did you know that it’s possible to think you’re helping someone, but actually make things worse for them? How do you think that could be possible? An example would be giving a friend the answers to a test. While giving the answers would help them with the test, that would make the situation worse because it means your friend wouldn’t learn the information they need to know. It also teaches them to take shortcuts, which may not always be good, and to do things the wrong way – like cheat.

This happens sometimes when we try to help people in countries where the people are materially poor. Sometimes the things we think they might need are not actually the things they need! Sometimes we make assumptions about what might be most helpful, rather than finding out for sure by asking them. It can be complicated at times!

The Bible encourages us to help people who are in need, so it’s important that we help in the best way possible:

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

1 John 3:16-18 New Living Translation (NLT)

CBM works really hard to make sure that the work they do around the world, through churches, actually helps those in need in the ways they want to be helped. One of the important ways they do this is by giving people education and skills to improve their own lives. Rather than simply providing material things for those in poverty, it’s important to help them provide for themselves and their families for the long-term. This makes communities stronger, and makes people feel valued and respected. Ensuring people have dignity is really important. When people can provide for themselves, it means they can make choices and feel good about the future. It also means they can help others too!

STORY: **Eagles Wings**

Listen to this story about the Eagle's Wings group in Bolivia and how it's helping women.

Isabel is a mother of four children who lives in Cochabamba, Bolivia. All her children are enrolled at the Casa de la Amistad, a place of hope for children whose parents are in prison. The Casa serves as a haven for these kids, a safe place where they can get assistance with schoolwork, receive hot meals, medical care and hear about the God who loves them.

Isabel's husband was sent to prison after she reported him for hurting her and their children. Unfortunately, since then, it's been difficult for her to support the family by herself and it's been a struggle to make ends meet. A few months ago, Isabel joined the Eagle's Wings group at the Casa, which was created to help support the mothers of Casa kids. Through this group she has learned how to sew and is gaining confidence in her ability to provide a better future for her children because of her new skills. She is also feeling optimistic because she can soon begin selling clothing in the marketplace. This additional income will help pay for her children's education.

The community of mothers within the group have been a great support to Isabel. She worries a lot about her life and her children, but she puts that aside when she is in sewing class. It's a place where she can relax and escape the stresses of her life situation. Isabel shared that participating in the group has given her a renewed sense of hope and she now feels better prepared to face the future.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION: **Casa de la Amistad**

About half of the nearly 11 million people living on Bolivia are children and adolescents. Most live in poverty, are vulnerable, suffer abuse and have very few rights.

Casa de la Amistad provides safety and support for children living with one or more parents in prison in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Children are welcomed each day by caregivers who provide spiritual, psychological, and educational support, along with regular health care services and nutritious meals. Several local churches support this ministry by offering regular devotionals and Bible lessons, as well as general care and friendship for these vulnerable children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How did Casa de la Amistad help Isabel and her family?

In what ways might our “help” actually hurt people in need?

How can we make sure we are really helping those in need?

ACTIVITY: **Electric Fence Game**

Tie a string between two stacks of chairs to create an “electric fence wire” that comes to about the average waist height of your Kids Care group. Have your Kids Care group gather on one side of the fence and form a human chain by holding hands. The objective of the game is to get the entire team from one side of the wire to the other without touching the wire.

Rules: Your Kids Care group can only go over (not under) the wire and must hold hands at all times. They will have to cooperate to help each other go over one at a time without touching the wire. If you have students who are not physically able to participate, they can act as judges making sure no one lets go of hands or touches the wire.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How did you feel knowing that you couldn't get to the other side on your own?

How did you feel asking for help?

How did you feel knowing that you needed to help others?

What was frustrating for you?

What was exciting?



Photo from food.com

This recipe is from:

[food.com/recipe/cocadas-bolivian-coconut-candies-456860](https://www.food.com/recipe/cocadas-bolivian-coconut-candies-456860)

SNACK: **Cocadas**

A traditional coconut candy or confectionery found in many parts of Latin America.

Serving: Makes 24 Candies

Ingredients:

- 2 2/3 cups shredded coconut

- 3/4 cup condensed milk
- 1 egg
- 1/4 teaspoon almond essence
- butter, to coat baking sheet (or cooking spray can be used, such as PAM)

Directions:

- In a bowl, mix shredded coconut, egg, condensed milk, and almond essence until everything is well mixed.
- Let rest for two or three minutes.
- Spread butter on a baking sheet to coat.
- Using two teaspoons, put small amounts of the mixture in the baking sheet.
- Bake at 325 °F for 25 minutes or until they are golden.

PRAYER:

God, thank you that you give us families and communities that support and care for us. We are thankful that you don't want anyone to be alone or left out. Help us to notice those who might be in need of things we can help provide. Help us to truly understand the best ways to help others. Thank you for always caring for us and reminding us that you love us just the way we are. Amen

Just One Day:

HERE'S AN IDEA: *Helping our Neighbours*

Talk about your neighbourhood and the various needs that exist around you. If your neighbours need help, where might they go? Spend some time discussing how you could help others in your community. Perhaps you could clean up a local park or trail, or volunteer with an organization that needs helpers. You could also encourage those who are already helping in your community. Perhaps you could take a card to the fire station or police station, or your local government representative to say thanks!





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